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MONTANA

SOICC NEWS

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Jobs for the Future

America's job market growth may be slowing down, from a 2.3 percent annual growth rate to 1.2 percent annual growth, but that still means new jobs. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the next 15 years will see 26 million new jobs, nearly half of them in the services sector. Manufacturing and agricultural jobs are projected to decline, but the services sector should help offset the decline. Occupations adding the most jobs by the year 2005 include:

- Retail sales workers - 887,000
- Registered nurses - 767,000
- Cashiers - 685,000
- Office clerks - 670,000
- Truckdrivers - 617,000
- Executives, managers - 598,000
- Nursing aides - 552,000
- Waiters/waitresses - 449,000
- Secondary school teachers - 437,000
- Information clerks - 422,000
- Systems analysts - 366,000
- Child care workers - 353,000
- Gardeners - 348,000
- Accountants - 340,000
- Computer programmers - 317,000
- Elementary school teachers - 313,000

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Montana follows the general trend of the nation. Recent employment projections to the year 1997 show annual job openings as highest for the following:

- Cashiers - 628
- Salespersons, Retail - 626
- Waiters/Waitresses - 539
- Food Preparation Workers - 342
- Food Prep & Serv Workers, Fast Food - 312
- Truck Drivers, Heavy or Tractor Trailer - 264
- Bookkeeping & Accounting Clerks - 262
- Stock Clerks, Sales Floor - 259

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- Secretaries, Except Legal/Medical - 251
- Janitors & Cleaners, Excl Maids - 236
- Teachers, Elementary - 218
- Teachers, Secondary School - 213
- Registered Nurses - 203
- General Office Clerks - 202
- Counter Attendants, Lunchroom/Cafeteria - 196
- Cook, Restaurant - 185
- General Managers & Top Executives - 168
- Nursing Aides & Orderlies - 159
- Cooks, Specialty Fast Food - 147
- 1st Line Supervisor & Manager, Sales - 147
- Bartenders - 137
- Dining Room/Cafeteria Attendant - 135
- Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners - 130
- 1st Line Supervisor & Mgr, Clerical - 127
- Tellers - 119

(Note: Montana job openings equal new job openings plus replacements due to retirement, death, etc)

Health services will lead all job fields in growth. Analysts feel this is due to the rapid growth of new health technologies and the prevalence of medical insurance. Health insurance is becoming an important issue during the Presidential election campaign, and should remain a hot item afterward. Passage of a bill providing health insurance for those not covered or unable to afford the payments should serve to create even more jobs than are currently forecast. Business services has been the fastest growing sector of the economy for the last 15 years, as businesses have turned to contracting outside sources for specialized services and utilizing temporary personnel. However, analysts feel this market is nearly saturated. If the growth pattern did continue, the temporary help business would account for one out of every three jobs in the next 15 years.

The proliferation of the personal computers should continue to have a positive impact. As using personal computers becomes an expected employment skill, those jobs associated with this equipment will continue to grow. Systems analysts, computer scientists, and programmers, as well as repair personnel will be employed in an industry that is expected to add 700,000 jobs in the next 15 years.

The star of the show will continue to be Retail Trade. This sector should continue to boom, employing around 19.6 million people by 2005. As more minorities and women enter the workforce, this sector should continue to expand, especially in apparel and accessory stores and eating and drinking establishments. These areas will be fueled by higher levels of personal income and the increase in labor force participation by women and minorities. The largest number of new jobs will be in the occupation of Retail Salesperson; however, many of these jobs will be part-time.

Government employment should increase modestly, primarily at the state and local levels. More than half of these gains should be in the area of education, due to the increase in school-age population. Jobs increasing in this sector will be teachers (elementary and secondary level), teachers aides and support personnel.

Source: Vocational Education Journal, February 1992

Sign of the Times

Mom + Dad + 2.2 kids = Average American household? Used to be. Channel Marketing Corporation predicts that the average American household will have 2.2 computers by 1999. No estimate on the number of children.

Source: Business Week, March 23, 1992

Computer Touchdown?

Sports-Tech International, a Fort Lauderdale company, is marketing the Collegiate Athletic Network software. This is a database of over 200,000 team positions at 3,200 U.S. colleges and universities. A one time fee of $49.95 matches students with an average of 15 schools, places their profile on the network and gives them information on about $300 million dollars worth of scholarship money.

Source: Business Week, March 23, 1992

How Could You Miss This?

Travel back with me, if you will, to a time approximately a year ago. You were looking forward to attending the Improved Career Decision Making workshops. Recapture that feeling by signing up for the Spring 1992 Improved Career Decision Making workshops.

There will be two workshops this year. One will be in Billings, MT, April 14-16. The other will be held in Great Falls, MT, April 28-30. The purposes of the workshops are to help teachers, counselors, employment and training professionals, and others to become familiar with sources of national, state and local labor market information, learn to apply labor market information to the career development process, and learn about the present state and national economy and future trends.

Sounds like a lot, and it is. The workshops have been lengthened a bit for this year to accommodate the new format and some new presentations. Also, the workbooks have been updated. Over 80 people attended the workshops last year. Their evaluations indicate they thought the workshops were good learning experiences, especially in revealing sources of career and labor market information.

The workshops this year will feature updated training manuals, more participatory training, and a video of Ira Magaziner, co-author of "America's Choices: High Skills or Low Wages." The favorites will be back, also. Representatives from the Labor Market Information Section, Montana Career Information System, Jobs for Montana's Graduates, the military, and private industry will present classes, lead discussions, and be there to answer any questions you may have.

The workshop in Billings will be held at the Ramada Inn of Billings, 1223 Mullowney Lane, phone: 248-7151. The Great Falls workshop will be held at the Sheraton Great Falls, 400 10th Avenue South, phone 727-7200.

Give us a call or drop a note to register for one of these workshops. You'll be glad you did.

How Much is that Job?

Jobs Requiring:

Bachelor's Degree or more

- Systems analyst
- Computer programmer
- Physical therapist
- Operations research analyst
- Psychologist
- Management analyst
- Marketing, advertising and public relations mgr
- Teacher
- Accountant
- Lawyer

Education beyond high school

- Paralegal
- Radiologic technician
- Medical assistant
- Physical therapy aide
- Data processing equipment repairer
- Medical records or Surgical technician
- Registered nurse*
- Legal secretary

No more than high school

- Home health aide
- Human service worker
- Personal aide
- Correction officer
- Travel agent
- Retail salesperson
- Cashier
- Truckdriver

*Registered nurse program may take two, three, or four years of postsecondary education

It's a Way of Life

Most people don't doubt that the more education required by a job position, the higher the salary a person can expect. An interesting fact is that jobs requiring more education* are also the jobs growing the fastest in today's economy.

The national figures from "Jobs for the Future" show the number of jobs, but not the percentages. A quick check of percentages show Paralegals up 85%, Systems analysts 79%, Personal aides 77%, Physical therapists 76%, Medical assistants 74%, Operations research analysts 73%, and Radiologic technicians/technologists 70%.

Within specific occupations the earning differences can be quite dramatic. Orderlies, attendants, and aides (high school education) earn a median weekly salary of $263. Technologists and technicians (postsecondary education) earn $398. Dietitians, pharmacists, registered nurses and therapists (college degree normally required) earn a median salary of $600. Physicians and other medical specialists (college degree plus) earn $824.

Education requirements don't stop with the college degree or vocational training certificate. Many job positions demand continuing education after a person is hired to train the person in specialized software programs, management and supervisory skills, as well as requiring the person to maintain certification through continuing education credits. Education isn't just a diploma, it's a way of life.

* "More education" means education beyond high school.

GED Article Rebuttal

I want to take this opportunity to respond to the Winter 1991 SOICC newsletter article about negative comments on the General Educational Development diploma as it relates to income. Your source was the Associated Press, which was based on the working papers of Stephen Cameron and James Heckman.

I did obtain a copy of their working papers from the University of Alabama. Their conclusions were based on a sample of 162 men ages 25 and 28. All researchers would agree that the sample is not representative of the yearly 763,000 men and women ranging in age from 16 to 93. I found many other serious flaws in their research methods.

In March 1992 the Iowa Department of Education published a two, five, and ten year follow-up study titled "What happened to Iowa's GED graduates?" The authors, Drs. John Harting and Hal Beder, warn about generalizations and some of the study limitations. I found their research methods unique. As a follow-up to those that did not willingly respond to the survey, they used cash as an incentive to obtain additional information. The researchers compared the two groups that responded. Those that received the cash incentive did not differ greatly in their answers compared with those that willingly responded.

Some of the Iowa findings were:

1. Employment rate increased substantially.

2. Employment increased most dramatically for younger GED graduates.

3. Paid employment gains were greater for women than for men.

4. Gains in employment were greater than the state average.

5. The number of hours GED graduates worked per week increased.

6. Job satisfaction increased significantly.

7. Personal income increased substantially.

8. Dependence on welfare as the primary source of income decreased dramatically.

9. Personal savings increased.

10. Property acquisition, as measured by home ownership, increased.

11. GED graduates were able to enroll in higher education.

12. On the average, GED graduates perceived increased self-esteem as the most significant benefit they obtained from earning a GED diploma.

I believe the Iowa study of 1,597 men and women (almost 10 times the number of Cameron and Hechman) of 1980, 1985 and 1988 graduates was accurate. Their findings are more like the historical findings of a positive correlation between education and income. Generally, the higher the educational level the higher the income.

Bob Ruthemeyer, Ed.D, Office of Public Instruction

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